

Genomics and Newborn Screening Program Q4 2021

New Employee Spotlight

Meet Destinee!

The Genomics and Newborn Screening Program has expanded the team to better support you. We are excited to introduce you to the new Genomics and Newborn Screening (GNBS) educator, Destinee Ward!

Destinee recently graduated with her MPH from the University of Indianapolis, where she focused on health disparities. She has also received her CHES certification where she is nationally recognized as a health education specialist. She has held multiple roles in public health and public service.

Destinee is the point of contact for all education materials and is responsible for educating all stakeholders regarding the heel stick and pulse oximetry screen as well as birth defects prevention. Feel free to reach out at deward@isdh.in.gov.



2021 Accomplishments

Recap of 2021 wins!

Our GNBS program was able to accomplish a lot over the past 11 months to ensure timely and quality newborn screening. Read on to learn more about what we have done!

- Expanded our team and hired an educator, NBS program manager, and NBS quality coordinator
- Had two education interns for the program who created educational videos for newborn screening and folic acid awareness
- Developed a partnership with genetic counseling student programs in the state
- Added Adrenoleukodystrophy (X-ALD) to the newborn screening panel
- Developed a nomination and evaluation process for newborn screening conditions



Recognition of Newborn Screening Award winners

1. Good Samaritan Hospital
2. St. Catherine Hospital
3. Community Hospital Munster
4. The Women's Hospital - Deaconess
5. IU Health Bloomington Hospital

These top 5 facilities have been ranked by best specimen quality and timely MSR reporting!. Thanks for your efforts!

Need materials?

Use the [GNBS printed materials request form](#) to easily place an order for free materials!

Order printed materials like GNBS educational handouts, NBS cards, and more! Click the link above to access the form.

More wins...

- Updated NBS card
- Created folic acid materials
- Developed a partnership between IBDPR and St. Joseph County
- Increased awareness of IBDPR through IHA Inspire award partnership
- Updated the IBDPR reportable conditions list and the IBDPR Review Protocols.

What's Ahead

Folic acid campaign

The IBDPR program will be spreading awareness throughout 2022! The folic acid campaign is a public health educational campaign designed to raise awareness and knowledge of folic acid and its role in preventing birth defects. This statewide campaign will not only benefit providers, it will benefit all people of reproductive age. Look for the statewide campaign rolling out in January 2022!

In a national survey conducted by the March of Dimes, only 21 percent of women knew folic acid could prevent birth defects and just 10 percent knew it should be taken before pregnancy. Folic acid provides many benefits and our campaign will be a great resource for sharing that information.



National Birth Defects Prevention Month!

January is National Birth Defects Prevention Month. About one in every 33 babies is born with a birth defect in the United States. Most birth defects occur in the first three months of pregnancy — a time when tissues are forming in the womb. Birth defects range in severity, and the earlier some birth defects are found, the better chance a baby has of living a long and healthy life.

Birth defects are the second leading cause of infant deaths in Indiana. Approximately 2,500 Indiana babies are born with birth defects each year. Look for #Best4YouBest4Baby for more information.



Contact Us!

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